



# COPS Fact Sheet

Community Oriented Policing Services

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## Methamphetamine Initiative 1999

### Background

The use of methamphetamines — central nervous system stimulants known as "crank" — is rising across the United States. Developed in clandestine laboratories often located in remote areas, methamphetamines are cheap and addictive. It isn't just the drug that is dangerous. Methamphetamine labs themselves pose both acute and chronic health risks to law enforcement agents that seize the facilities and to those who live nearby.

For Fiscal Year 1999, Congress appropriated \$35 million to fight the escalating methamphetamine problem. COPS is facilitating the funding of a variety of enforcement and training programs to areas with the greatest need for assistance in eradicating methamphetamine production and distribution.

COPS funds are being used by the State of California to enhance a statewide strategy which includes enforcement, intelligence gathering, safety training, and community outreach programs. COPS is also working with the Drug Enforcement Agency and several other states to provide state and local law enforcement training on the proper collection, removal, and destruction of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. Another \$3.6 million is being used for state and local law enforcement projects to combat methamphetamine production distribution and use.

### Program Summary

Building on previous innovative COPS programs that allow law enforcement agencies to experiment with advanced technologies and creative strategies to implement resourceful solutions to persistent crime, COPS has developed a new Methamphetamine Initiative. This new program will provide innovative community policing grants to a limited number of law enforcement agencies in jurisdictions with large numbers of

DEA methamphetamine lab seizures, frequently reported deaths attributed to methamphetamine abuse, high percentages of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine addiction treatment, and/or extensive numbers of reported arrests for drug dealing and possession.

COPS Methamphetamine Initiative funds will support a variety of enforcement, production, prevention, treatment, training, intelligence gathering, and precursor chemical monitoring efforts. Consistent with community policing objectives, sites will be encouraged to develop partnerships with local agencies (e.g., environmental agencies, fire departments, and other local law enforcement) to combat the methamphetamine threat in their communities.

- Thirteen jurisdictions are being invited to apply for funds in the FY 1999 COPS Methamphetamine Initiative: Tulsa, Okla.; San Antonio, Texas; Portland, Ore.; Denver, Colo.; Omaha, Neb.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Kansas City, Mo.; Independence, Mo.; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Paragould, Ark.; Des Moines, Iowa; West Valley, Utah; Midvale, Utah. Additional sites may be invited to participate.
- The COPS office will work directly with these agencies to craft innovative strategies, track and evaluate implementation, and disseminate results to other communities confronting similar challenges.
- Methamphetamine Initiative grants may be funded for up to \$300,000. A local match is not required, although applicants are encouraged to contribute cash or in-kind resources to their proposed projects.

**For more information, call the Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or visit the COPS website at: [www.usdoj.gov/cops/](http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/)**